

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 36 of 1877.

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS
FOR THE

Week ending the 8th September 1877.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	“ Bhárat Shramjíbí ”	Baráhanagar ...	4,000	
2	“ Rajshahye Sambád ”	Rajshahye ...	.....
3	“ Grámbártá Prakáshiká ”	Comercolly ...	200	Jyaistha, 1284 B. S.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
4	“ Banga Hitaishí ”	Bhowanipore ...	.....	27th August 1877.
5	“ Bishwa Dút ”	Táligunj, Calcutta ..	.....	29th ditto.
6	“ Bishwa Suhrid ”	Mymensingh ...	450	
7	“ Bhárat Mihir ”	Do. ...	658	30th ditto.
8	“ Bhárat Sangskárak ”	Calcutta ...	.....	27th ditto.
9	“ Bengal Advertiser ”	Do. ...	.....
10	“ Dacca Prakásh ”	Dacca ...	400	
11	“ Education Gazette ”	Hooghly ...	1,168	30th ditto.
12	“ Moorshedabad Pratinidhi ”	Berhampore ...	.....	30th ditto.
13	“ Pratikár ”	Do ...	235	30th ditto.
14	“ Grámbártá Prakáshiká ”	Comercolly ...	200	1st September.
15	“ Sambád Bháskar ”	Calcutta ...	.....	27th August.
16	“ Sulabha Samáchár ”	Do ...	3,000	1st September.
17	“ Sádhárani ”	Chinsurah ...	516	26th August.
18	“ Hindu Hitaishini ”	Dacca ...	300	1st September.
19	“ Samáj Darpan ”	Calcutta ...	460	
20	“ Soma Prakásh ”	Bhowanipore ...	700	3rd ditto.
21	“ Sahachar ”	Calcutta ...	.....	27th August.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI—(Continued).			
	<i>Weekly—(Continued).</i>			
22	“Hindu Ranjiká”	Bauleah, Rajshahye	.....	29th August 1877.
23	“Rungpore Dik Prakásh” ...	Kákiniá, Rungpore	250	
24	“Burdwan Pracháriká” ...	Burdwan ...	165	
	<i>Daily.</i>			
25	“Sambád Prabhákar” ...	Calcutta ...	550	27th & 29th Aug. to 4th Sept.
26	“Sambád Púrnachandrodaya” ...	Do. ...	.....	31st August to 6th September.
27	“Samáchár Chandriká” ...	Do. ...	.....	27th & 31st Aug. & 1st Sept.
28	“Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká” ...	Do. ...	652	31st August to 3rd September.
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
29	“Amrita Bazar Patriká” ...	Do. ...	2,217	30th August.
30	“Howrah Hitakarí” ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	2nd September.
31	“Moorshedabad Patriká” ...	Berhampore ...	.....	31st August.
32	“Burrisal Bártábaha” ...	Burrisal ...	300	
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
33	“Urdu Guide”	Calcutta ...	400	1st September.
	URDU.			
	<i>Bi-monthly.</i>			
34	“Akhbár-ul-Akhiár” ...	Mozufferpore ...	.....
	HINDI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
35	“Behár Bandhu”	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	5th September.
	PERSIAN.			
36	“Jám-Jahán-numá”	Calcutta ...	250	31st August & 7th September.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

AFTER giving a summary of the proceedings of a meeting recently held at Hooghly, in honor of Sir William Herschel, on the occasion of his approach-

A meeting in honor of Sir William Herschel. ing retirement, the *Sádhárani*, of the 26th

August, makes the following observations :—

Sir William is well known in this country for his impartiality and liberal views. We should gather to ourselves dignity and moral worth, if we gave our assent only to public meetings in honor of the merits of high officers of his type. But native society has not yet arrived at that point ; and therefore, not unfrequently, meetings are held to vote addresses to persons of but small merit, merely at the instance or request of public officials. This is much to be deplored ; and for this reason, we as a rule, object to such meetings ; and our objections become more decided when such gatherings partake of an official character. In the case of Sir William Herschel, who is really deserving of honor, there could be no hesitation in showing our appreciation of his services, however brought about, were it not that we apprehend unfavourable results in the future. We have noticed with exceeding regret that it was left to public officers in this district to call this meeting, that it was held in the Government school premises, that the correspondence referring to it was entrusted to certain paid officers of the collectorate, and that the invitation cards were distributed by the police constables. If others had had the same feelings as ourselves in this matter, there would have been no failing in these trifling things. That at the time of Sir William's retirement, and while noticing a meeting held in his honor, we should be under the necessity of indirectly bringing this point to his notice, only arises from an apprehension as to its recurrence in future. The truth is, whether we choose to express it in words or not, we are really ill-fated.

SÁDHARANI,
August 26th, 1877.

2. The same paper makes the following observations on the recently published "Master and Servants' Bill." By allotting to the various members of Hindu society

The Master and Servants' Bill. the kind of labour which each was expected to discharge, the caste system served an important purpose, which at the present time, owing to changes brought about by the introduction of Western civilization, can only be accomplished by means of voluntary contracts, needing the sanction of law. It was therefore certain that, sooner or later, a law defining the duties and obligations of the master and servant would become necessary. According to Mr. Stokes, the necessity has now arisen ; and he has therefore introduced a Bill into the Legislative Council on the subject. We are, however, opposed to this measure, chiefly because we believe that, as legislators, the British Government occupies a very low position. They occasionally betray so much hastiness, in connection with matters of great importance, as to occasion no little disappointment. While it is their clear duty to consider a subject in all its bearings, they sometimes attend to only one aspect of it. Then again, a shameful ignorance is betrayed regarding the condition of the country. For these and other reasons, we have no confidence in the legislative ability of the British Government. It is observed, in the statement of objects and reasons, that "the Bill is based mainly upon the English law," and that "some provisions have been adopted from the Prussian and New York Codes." We have grave doubts as to whether this system of ingrafting foreign legislation on the customs of a country is really beneficial.

SÁDHARANI.

SADHARANI,
August 26th, 1877.

3. We extract the following observations from an article communicated to the same paper, headed "Our Misfortunes." The native newspapers being the

The value of native newspapers.
only means we possess for making our sentiments known, any injury to their interests must be regarded as done directly to ourselves. They are a source of strength to the weak, help to the helpless, and of comfort to hearts distracted with fear; they are teachers of the ignorant, and constitute the only means whereby vent may be given to the sorrows of a Bengali's heart. It is by their means only that publicity can be given to cases of oppression by landlords; and editors, even if they can do nothing else, can cheer us up by their sympathy and encouragement, and by shewing us that we have a ruler. What would have been the condition of the peasantry of Bengal at this moment, if Harish had not depicted their sufferings in forcible and pathetic language? There are not a few among us who formerly had not even heard the name of Baroda; but now, if asked, all will be able to tell, not only of Baroda, but of the trial of Mulharrao also, with tears. But to whom is this due? Who taught us that the spleen of a Bengali generally bursts for a trifling cause, and occasionally for no cause at all? This knowledge is not derived from the medical service. There are many more things of this sort for which we are indebted solely to the vernacular papers, who are our sincere friends. It is deeply to be regretted that, for constantly giving publicity to truth, the editors have incurred the displeasure of Government. Who shall respect truth after this? Who shall come to the succour of the weak, or expose the doings of a Kirkwood?

SADHARANI.

4. A correspondent of the same paper complains, that the acts of the local authorities in Rungpore are such as to give one an impression that it is a non-regulation district. The Deputy Magistrate

The office of the Acting Deputy Magistrate of Bagdogra should be at that place, and not in Rungpore.
in charge of the Bagdogra sub-division having taken leave, his office has been removed to the head-quarters of the district, where another deputy will probably officiate for him. This arrangement has caused considerable inconvenience and loss to suitors and pleaders, who now are obliged to travel a good distance to Rungpore; where the pleaders especially are obliged to stay for many days together, and yet houses to lodge in are scarcely procurable. Would it not be better to transfer the acting officer to Bagdogra? It is said, that the Sub-Divisional Officer of Kurigram also will go on leave, and that a similar arrangement will be made. Government is asked to attend to the subject, and see that the sub-divisions really answer the purpose for which they were created.

SADHARANI.

Hours of work in the office of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division.

5. The same paper learns on good authority that, to give effect to the Lieutenant-Governor's recent circular regarding the punctual attendance of Government officers in their offices, Mr. Mangles, the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, has ruled that the hours of work in his own office should be 10-30 A.M. to any hour in the afternoon as he might choose to remain. And as he generally does not leave office before 6-30 P.M., the assistants employed under him are put to much inconvenience.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
August 26th, 1877.

6. The *Sambad Prabhakar*, of the 28th August, writes the following in an article headed "Civilians":—The Lieutenant-Governor considers us disloyal and our writings seditious. But, true to the duty which we have taken upon ourselves, we should not be justified in abusing the liberty of the

Press, even if Mr. Eden repeated his remarks a thousand times over. If it

Compulsory retirement of civilians
on pension injurious to the public
service.

be an act of disloyalty to expose official oppressions and seek redress at the hands of Government—if representations made on behalf of the oppressed, and with a view to save the reputation of Government, be regarded as seditious, we shall nevertheless neither grieve nor fear; but do our duty, without transgressing the bounds of loyalty, all mistaken officers and governors notwithstanding. It is believed by many that Lord Clive's victory at Plassy was won on behalf of civilians only; and this is perfectly true. Thousands of civilians have amassed wealth from the Indian service and retired; and thousands more are now enriching themselves; while batches of beardless young men are yearly added to their number. The rules regarding their appointment, pay, promotion, and retirement are a curiosity. Many of them, too, are worthies of the firm of Messrs. Kirkwood and Company, and perform wonderful feats. It is, notwithstanding, a matter of gratification that the present race of civilians do not labour under the same reproach of corruption, which cast a slur on the reputation of their predecessors in the days of the East India Company. Nor are all of them at the present time guilty of such acts as are likely to produce disaffection among the people. There are among them many friends to the natives, and men who possess a truly god-like disposition.

Public officers in no other country are paid so highly as the members of the Indian Civil Service. The rules regulating their pension, leave, and promotion are exceedingly favourable. Still they are not satisfied. The number of new arrivals being large, Government finds it difficult to provide all with suitable appointments, although for this purpose the public service is over-officered. While this arrangement, on the one hand, entails an unnecessary outlay, public funds are, on the other, squandered, to give effect to another scheme sanctioned by the Secretary of State, under which, to remove the obstacles which lie in the way of the promotion of the junior members of the Civil Service, the seniors are allowed the option of retiring before their period of service is complete. This plan is doubly disadvantageous, (1) as dispensing with the valuable services of experienced men and substituting inexperienced labourers in their stead, and (2) as occasioning a frightful loss to the public exchequer. The charge on account of the Civil Service is by far the heaviest item of the public expenditure. Some reform is urgently needed in this direction.

7. The *Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 27th August, has the following

The association of the indigo planters
of Behar.

under the heading of the "Indigo Planters' Association."

As soon as Mr. Eden shewed them a glaring eye, the indigo planters of Behar formed themselves into an association, and undertook to organise measures to check their own oppressions. Let us first consider whether any good is likely to arise from this. It is to be feared that, in such an association, the members will never expose the faults of their neighbours, and will seek to palliate by any means those who may be guilty of misdeeds, while their virtues will be repeated *ad nauseam*. God only knows what good acts are done by them. In our opinion *badmashes* should never be allowed to combine for any purpose. Thieves or dacoits, united in a body, do more mischief than any one of them individually. The association of the Behar planters will probably prove a combination to ruin the tenantry. They should never be permitted thus to combine; even as dacoits are not allowed to form themselves into gangs. Henceforth, should any oppressions be committed by them, it would be hard to obtain any

SAMACHAR
CHANDEKA,
August 27th, 1877.

evidence to convict them. They are connected with a Trades' Association and Chamber of Commerce, whose members are ready to lay down their lives in their defence. We believe that associations are useful only when they are formed by honest men, and for the good of the country. Mr. Eden should now put forth efforts to prevent the formation of an association by the planters, which is more likely to produce evil than good.

SAHACHAR,
August 27th, 1877.

8. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th August, remarks that partial measures have at length been adopted to arrest the course of the malarious fever.

Rajah Digamber Mittra's theory as to the causation of the epidemic fever confirmed by medical testimony. The Lieutenant-Governor has directed the attention of all District Magistrates and Engineers to the necessity of securing efficient

drainage while constructing roads or railways. So that the efforts of Rajah Digamber Mittra have at last met with success. As he is not, however, a medical man, and as doctors are generally opposed to the reception, as true, of opinions formed by non-professional men, it is exceedingly gratifying to notice that Assistant Surgeon Annadá Churn Kástagiri, who has had special opportunities of studying the subject while stationed at Chittagong, has, in the January number of the *Indian Annals of Medical Science*, confirmed Rajah Digamber's theory as to the causation of the malarious fever.

SAHACHAR.

9. The same paper continues the article noticed in paragraph 10 of our last Report on the subject of the Native Press not disloyal.

Press, and writes as follows:—The imputations, cast upon the vernacular newspapers by Mr. Eden, are, in our opinion, perfectly groundless; and we should like to know his reasons. By kindly publishing in the *Calcutta Gazette* his definition of loyalty, he would make it possible for the native editors to comprehend what it is that is expected of them. Since he has admitted that the Bengalis are in their hearts loyal to the British Government, it is incumbent upon him to tell us how we have failed to act loyally. Let him carefully study the Indian Penal Code, or the law of sedition which obtains in England or in any other country, and he will be able to detect his error. Does he want to see the papers subservient to Government? If that be his desire, he is doomed to be disappointed; for, thanks to the British administration, the Bengali has now clearly learnt his rights and privileges. Barring disloyalty, sedition, and similar base methods, he will now persist in his efforts to obtain his own by all right and constitutional means. Time is responsible for this. Mr. Eden's threats will not be sufficient to divert its course. The Bengali hates sedition or disaffection towards the Sovereign or the Government. Will Mr. Eden call him loyal if only he desists from such efforts to obtain his rights? If so, the Bengali would prefer being regarded as disloyal. In spite of all Mr. Eden may have to say against them, there are abundant proofs of the loyalty of the vernacular newspapers towards the British Government. Where was Mr. Eden during the mutiny of 1857? Has he forgotten that it was the Bengali only that remained true to Government at that critical period, and the loyal advocacy of the native papers did much good? The Bengalis have ever been noted for their loyalty. Whatever race the sovereign might belong to, they have ever regarded him as an incarnation of divinity. Their *shástras* teach this; and all the high officers in this country have always commended their devotion to the rulers. Does not Mr. Eden know this, or has he forgotten it? We believe that the Bengalis are a more loyal people than Englishmen; for gratitude forms a noble trait of their character. They are content with little, and always respect their

benefactors. If His Honor has blamed the Native Press with a full knowledge of these facts, he has done them a gross injustice. The vernacular papers oftentimes discuss the justice or otherwise of the acts of public officers. It is their duty to do so, otherwise they would be guilty of idle flattery. Mr. Eden will be able to perceive, by a reference to the administration reports issued by Sir Richard Temple, that this view is not exclusively our own. Mr. Kirkwood committed gross oppressions on an innocent man, Lalchand Chowdhury; in the Rajsahye dog case, the Magistrate insulted an innocent schoolboy, and withal threw him into prison. A scandalous case is also reported to have occurred in Maldah, the truth or falsity of which is not yet known. Are the native papers to be regarded as disloyal for fearlessly protesting against such wrong and inhuman acts? Are they guilty because they advocate the cause of the oppressed? Are they guilty for saying that Orissa was depopulated through the fault of Sir Cecil Beadon; and that Sir Richard Temple is the cause of the misfortunes of Madras? While the Sovereign and the British Parliament have said that natives are competent to be appointed to all high offices under the State, is it sedition in the native papers if they protest against your tricks to exclude them from this privilege, and if they demand their rights? Has Mr. Eden taken the Native Press to task for these faults? And does he consider it necessary that to be loyal they should free themselves from them? If that be the case, rule the Bengalis as despotically as you please, they will never be loyal—loyal in the sense in which His Honor understands the term. Has Mr. Eden yet to learn what the functions and duties of a newspaper press are? Or is it that he does not like the idea of a conquered race lifting up their voice and demanding their rights? Will not the great Mr. Eden acknowledge that the paramount duty of a newspaper is impartially to discuss the merits of public measures? Is it not for this purpose that the Press has been made free in England, the country which affords the best example of the good done by means of newspapers? If it is sedition to protest against any public measure, Mr. Gladstone and his followers are at this moment guilty of it; and perhaps they would be punished if Mr. Eden were the ruler of England. According to His Honor, the vernacular newspapers never contain any praise of the public officers, and are only full of abuse. We are sorry that we cannot admit this as true. We have observed before that this is opposed to the natural disposition of the Bengali, and we need not go far for proof in support of our assertions. Let Mr. Eden refer to back numbers of these papers, commencing from the date of his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship, and he will find much eulogistic writing about himself and the officers subordinate to him in many places. Nor is this due to any fear of him; the same has been all along the case. Sir George Campbell and Sir Richard Temple were praised for the beneficial measures inaugurated by them, and blamed for those of an opposite character. If, in spite of these facts, Mr. Eden does not perceive his mistake, that must be attributed to the ill-fate of native papers. His Honor observes that, although the condition of the peasantry has considerably improved, owing to the labours of the district officers, the subject is never adverted to in the native papers. We believe that Mr. Eden has herein fallen into an error. The officers have been applauded in all instances, in which, through their exertions, any benefit has accrued to the peasantry. But on the whole, the condition of the peasantry has not much improved. On this point the evidence of Sir George Campbell and Sir Richard Temple is sufficient. The editor then makes the same remarks as to the ability and influence possessed by the editors as those

noticed in paragraph 7 of our last Report, and quotes the opinion of Sir Richard Temple on the loyalty of the Vernacular Press. He concludes the article with the following observations :—Should the above be deemed insufficient to convince His Honor of the truth of our contention, let him seek to deprive the Native Press of its liberty. We shall not regret that. With all his faults, Sir Richard Temple perfectly comprehended the hearts of the Bengalis; while Mr. Eden, grown old in this province, has failed to do so. His Honor has counselled us as a friend. We, too, in the same friendly spirit ask him, if he really wishes well to Bengalis, and desires to secure their respect, to cease making such unfounded charges, compose his mind, give up the fickleness of youth; or else, disgusted, let him go back to his own country.

SAHACHAR,
August 27th, 1877.

The good done to the Ghatal sub-division by the Deputy Magistrate in charge.

10. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Básudebpore, notices with pleasure, that much good has resulted from placing an able Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Ghatal sub-division. The strong cannot now, as formerly, tyrannize over the weak. The officer is also attentive to the sanitation of the places under his jurisdiction, and has made many improvements by the construction of roads and the provision of efficient drainage.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,
August 27th, 1877.

Native Press not disloyal.

11. In an article on the Native Press, the *Sambad Bháskar*, of the 27th August, expresses views identical with those noticed in paragraph 9 of our last Report from the *Sambad Prabhákar*. The writer dwells on the service rendered to Government by the *Bháskar* during the period of the mutiny, when its loyal articles were, by the orders of Lord Canning, translated into English by the Revd. J. Long, and published in the *Englishman* and other dailies of Calcutta; and asks if the epithet of disloyal is the only reward which the Lieutenant-Governor has chosen to confer upon it in recognition of its loyalty.

BHARAT
SANGSKÁRAK,
August 27th, 1877.

Native Press.

12. The *Bhárat Sangskárak*, of the 27th August, thus opens an editorial headed the "Lieutenant-Governor's remarks on the Native Press." As any act of indiscretion or carelessness, or such as may be the outcome of narrow views, misrepresentation or rigor in Mr. Eden, is likely to injure the interests of no less than sixty millions of people of this country, it is clearly our duty to protest against the reprehensible attitude he has shewn towards the native papers. Such criticism on our part is likely to benefit him as well as the country; while the adulation of flatterers, by representing the faults of a ruler as virtues, may be productive of much evil. Thanks to the British Government, which has given liberty to the newspaper press to comment on the acts of public men. The remaining portion of his remarks agree with those extracted from the *Sádháraní* and the *Amrita Bazar Patriká* on the same subject in our last report.

BANGA HITAISHI,
August 27th, 1877.

13. The following is the substance of an editorial in the *Banga Hitaishi*, of the 27th August, headed the "Condition of the country and what the

Why the people should have so soon forgotten all about the title of "Empress of India."

people should do":—Although considerable excitement prevailed in this country, when the desire of Her Majesty to assume the title of

Empress first became known, it is surprising that it should so soon have passed away from their thoughts; and it is only at intervals that those natives who can read English are reminded of it by the sight of the Empress rupee. The reason

is that there is little to keep the memory of it alive. A durbar alone does not leave lasting effects on the mind. The people's idea, of what a sovereign should be, is one peculiar to themselves. They have been accustomed to regard the sovereign as a parent; and as her children, they look for appropriate treatment at her hands. They have been disabused of this expectation by finding that now, as formerly, the distinction of black and white continues to exist; that the influence of Manchester is unabated; that the salt duties continue; that money is still remitted to England on various pretences; that oppression and injustice prevail—nay, have rather increased. The people in the mofussil are always afraid lest they be murdered by some European. The same distrust of the people which first shewed itself at the time of the mutiny still continues; natives have not yet obtained admission into the military service. While such thoughts occupy the minds of the educated, the ignorant think of the high prices of food and the increasing difficulty of obtaining any situation. Taxation has increased; the public works cess has come upon the heels of the road cess; and what has Her Majesty done for them in this hour of distress? The editor tells the native public that they are not to expect at the hands of Government the treatment which the ancient Hindu kings accorded to their subjects. In the words of the poet—they were like the sun, which absorbs the moisture of the earth, only to return it a thousandfold in the form of grateful showers. The contrary is the policy of the British Government. To benefit their own countrymen, they drain the wealth of this country; and it is for this that they govern India.

14. The *Bharat Mihir*, of the 30th August, is grieved to find that

Mr. Eden's true character revealed. Mr. Eden, whom the vernacular papers, with scarcely any exception, had so long idolized and regarded as a true friend of the country, should have deceived them as to his real character. He has now appeared in his true colors. Ever since he assumed the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, he has by his acts shown a disposition quite unworthy of Mr. Eden as we knew him before. Perhaps his present exalted position has wrought this change. It is deeply to be regretted that, without making the least reference to the oppressions of the Magistrates or the police in the mofussil, His Honor has laid all the blame at the door of the Native Press.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 30th, 1877.

15. Adverting to the case of Mr. Rochfort, the late Assistant

Mr. Rochfort's case. Inspector-General of Railway Police, the same paper remarks:—It is said that Mr. Rochfort has been degraded for taking bribes. How disgraced he would have been by Government if he were a Bengali? Why was Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee dismissed? Mr. Rochfort was guilty of the worst crime that a public officer, especially one belonging to the Police Department, could commit. What will the people say at this act of Government? And if the newspapers remain silent regarding this matter, what is the use of them in this subject country? Here such cases of injustice must be of frequent occurrence; and although we know that many a nation has suffered likewise, still, a subject people as we are, we have not yet lost the independence of our minds; and it is therefore hard to suppress the feeling of grief on such occasions. It is not sedition to give vent to the grief which as a nation burdens our hearts. Mr. Eden should know this; that while the Kirkwoods are applauded and the Rochforts protected, we although a subject people, must remain silent, are terms such as we never imposed upon ourselves.

BHARAT MIHIR.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 30th, 1877.

The condition of the Bengali
peasantry.

BISHWA DUT,
August 29th, 1877.

Native Press.

HINDU HITAISHINI,
September 1st, 1877.

16. The observations of the same paper on the condition of the Bengali peasantry are in spirit the same as those noticed in paragraph 8 of our last Report.

17. The *Bishwa Düt*, of the 29th August, writing of Mr. Eden's strictures on the Native Press, makes observations similar to those noticed from the *Sádhá-rani*, the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, and the *Soma Prakásh*.

18. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 1st September, observes that, although we are grieved at the unjust strictures passed by the Lieutenant-Governor on the Native Press, still one remark made by him in the course of his speech has gratified us. It is his observations on the

The condition of the tenantry in Eastern Bengal. condition of the peasantry. We do not think that His Honor is wholly wrong in maintaining

that of late years it has considerably improved. We know, as a matter of fact, that increased prices have brought them higher profits than formerly; and this circumstance has so filled them with pride that they have begun to dispute the authority of the zemindars. Since the outbreak of the Pubna riots agrarian disputes have taken place in almost all the districts of Eastern Bengal. The tenantry are unwilling to pay their rents, and are opposed to the right of the landlord as intervening between them and Government. A number of newspapers, however, who are ignorant of the true condition of the peasantry in this part of the country, are always busy proclaiming that it is the landlords who oppress, and the tenantry who suffer.

19. Referring to the remarks of the Lieutenant-Governor on the tone of the Native Press, the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 3rd September, denies the charges

brought against it. The editors are not disloyal; while it is not true that they are men of no influence, position, or learning. Any other person making such damaging remarks regarding the reputation of a private individual would be punishable in a court of justice. It is not, however, the object of the writer to incite native editors to bring a suit of defamation of character against His Honor. As the Governor of the Presidency, his faults should be overlooked even a hundred times. Mr. Eden has not hit upon the right policy of governing by throwing discredit upon the newspaper press, which to the ruler should be, as it is in all civilized countries, a trusted adviser. There is hope of little good to Bengal if the Press is treated in this way. In according due respect to the subjects, Sir Richard Temple was far superior to the present ruler of the province. Since such is the light in which he has chosen to view the newspapers, it becomes the native editors to form an association, and represent their grievances to the Viceroy.

SOMA PRAKASH.

The diminished income of the Dur-bhunga Raj through mismanagement.

20. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the present mismanagement of the affairs of the Dur-bhunga Raj under Colonel Money, and contrasts it with the happiness of the people and the large income of the estate when Colonel Burne was its manager. At the present time the income has considerably diminished owing to rents having fallen into arrears, and through confusion in the accounts. It is feared that the Rajah, who will attain his majority next year, will have to enter upon the management of his estate with an empty treasury.

21. The same paper is gratified to notice that a movement has been set on foot in Calcutta for the purpose of presenting an address to Sir Richard Temple, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Sir Richard was a friend of high education, was courteous, and ever willing to work in concert with others. He was preeminently qualified to win popularity.

SOMA PRAKASH,
September 3rd, 1877.

22. In a long letter to the same paper, a correspondent points to the injustice that has been done to the tenants of the khas mehals in the Midnapore district, by first ordering a new survey with chain and compass, instead of the local bamboo rod; and in the second place, from the amins having drawn up and submitted inaccurate maps. Government is earnestly besought to order a fresh measurement under a competent person.

SOMA PRAKASH.

Khas mehals in the Midnapore dis-
trict.

FAMINE.

23. The *Sádhárani*, of the 26th August, remarks as follows on the subject of the famine:—The Government of India is not willing to receive

Private charity to supplement State relief in Madras, not sanctioned by the Government of India.

any aid from private charity in suppressing the famine in Madras; it having taken upon itself the whole burden of relieving the distress. We,

however, regret this. When, last year, Eastern Bengal was visited by a dire calamity, certain associations in Calcutta were prepared to send aid to the houseless and the destitute. It was, however, observed by Sir Richard Temple that Government did not consider public subscriptions necessary; and that it had been found, on examination, that the water in the tanks, canals, and *bils* of the afflicted cities was not injurious to health. But it became afterwards manifest that the same water, having been rendered impure, engendered cholera, which carried off a sixth part of the population. A similar calamity has now befallen the country. It would be altogether impossible for Government to undertake the relief of the entire population of an extensive empire, even if it were willing to do so. There are numbers of persons who are not able to work in a relief station, or to whom the system of State relief is not accessible. To these, aid through a private agency would be invaluable. It is for this reason that the people of Madras have been exceedingly pained by the order of the Government of India. Another order also has been issued by the authorities; namely, that the subjects of native states alone will be allowed to subscribe in aid of the famine-stricken in those states. It would seem from the attitude of the *Pioneer*, as if the object of such an order was only to prevent any feeling of sympathy from growing up between the people of the different provinces of India, which cannot but be fostered on such occasions. Does Government really view such united efforts and co-operation on the part of natives with disfavour? No: we shall never believe this. The fact is, without showing the least disrespect to the wishes of the Government, we can still help the sufferers. But where is the inclination to do so? To the Bengali, this new order of the Government of India has become a blessing in disguise.

SADHARANI,
August 26th, 1877.

24. A correspondent of the same paper writes the following from Chittagong:—The condition of the people is daily becoming increasingly deplorable. Want is increasing. The amun seedlings have been transplanted, but agricultural operations are not progressing satisfactorily. The soil is still saturated with

SADHARANI.

Distress in Chittagong.

salt, and its productive power has consequently diminished. It has been raining incessantly since last week, thus causing floods, owing to which paddy seedlings are in danger of rotting in the fields. Ploughing cannot go on; and the roads are all laid under water. The people are crying for want of food in all directions. Should any respectable-looking man chance to pass through a village, the inhabitants—the old, and the women and children—all come out to beg alms. For want of sufficient food, the peasants have become weak, shrivelled, and emaciated; and are daily becoming incapable of active work. The paddy seed is not procurable in all places, and even where it is, it has for the most part lost the power of producing corn. A good crop can never be expected unless the seedlings are transplanted in August; but this year many have not been yet able to procure the seed. No one need be told that the consequence of all this will be a dearth of food next year. The number of petty thefts has increased. A few days ago an emaciated offender was sentenced to be flogged. The man, however, confessed that to satisfy the pangs of hunger, he had stolen paddy from the fields, and asked to be put into prison that he might have something given him to eat.

SAHACHAR,
August 27th, 1877.

25. A correspondent of the *Sahachar*, of the 27th August, reports Weather and crops in the Ghatal incessant rain in the Ghatal sub-division. sub-division. The fields are all laid under water, and cultivation is at a standstill. The crops are in danger; the peasantry have no stores of food; while the stocks of the mahajuns are empty.

LOCAL GRIEVANCES.

SADHARANI,
August 26th, 1877.

26. A correspondent of the *Sádháraní*, of the 26th August, asks Government to order the construction, from the road cess funds, of a road from Madanpore, a station on the Eastern Bengal Railway, to the hât at Haringhata, in the district of Nuddea. The The construction of a road asked for. inhabitants of a large number of villages, such as Haringhata, Subarnapore, Simhat, Narayanpore and others, use the Madaripore station, and are seriously inconvenienced for want of such a road. The writer dwells on the selfish manner in which the proceeds of the road cess are expended by the district and sub-committees to the utter neglect of the interests of the rate-payers in the villages.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
August 31st, 1877.

27. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 31st August, asks A road to be constructed. the attention of the authorities to the necessity of constructing a road from Radhanagar to Kushman, a village in sub-division Ghatal. A large number of adjacent villages will be benefited if this measure is carried out.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

28. A correspondent, writing to this paper from Noakholly, beseeches Lakshmipore thanā should be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Noakholly Sudder Moonsifee. Government to transfer Lakshmipore thanā to the jurisdiction of the Noakholly Sudder Moonsifee, as the present arrangement, under which it is placed under Begumunge, occasions considerable inconvenience to suitors. A memorial on this subject, supported by the District Judge, is already before Government.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,

29. Another correspondent of the same paper adverts to the loss of crops, A breach in the embankment of the Jhumi nádi. of about 20 villages, by floods occasioned by the bursting of the embankment of the Jhumi nádi, a branch of the Darkeshwar. Government is asked to attend to it.

30. A correspondent of the *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 31st August, notices the case of extortion by a police constable in the village of

A case of extortion of money by a police constable. Bígram, in thana Munglecote. A Hindu widow had died of snake-bite in the night, and

when a constable of police came to investigate the case next morning, he demanded to see the naked body, on the ground of some alleged suspicion. The relatives of the deceased would not of course agree to this, and were consequently obliged to pay some rupees to induce him to relax his demands.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
August 31st, 1877.

MISCELLANEOUS.

31. The *Sádháraní*, of the 26th August, writes the following in an article headed the "Condition of villages":—The people in villages have little enterprise or ambition. Our present rulers are not very willing to encourage

The condition of villages. them, while the leading men of our country, most of whom live in cities, are indifferent

to their condition. Of the inhabitants of villages, the greater portion are poor, and are engaged either in agriculture or service. There is scarcely anything of commerce or manufactures. Will the country prosper with such a population, or will it be benefited, if all efforts are expended for the improvement of those in cities only, while the village population remains steeped in poverty as before? Whenever we think of a village, we seem to see before our eyes the emaciated figures of home-keeping and overworked peasants, ground down by the oppressions of the mahajun and the zemindar. From time out of mind, the peasantry have remained in this state. Not one of the successive rajahs, emperors, nawabs, governors, or governors-general has attended to or sought to comprehend the subject; and consequently no efforts have been made to improve their condition. The present rulers, being foreigners, can never be expected to do this, even if they comprehended it. We would ask the zemindars and the "patriots" living in cities to visit any village during these rains, and see how the inhabitants live; otherwise long reports and pamphlets, and newspaper articles, and town-hall oratory will avail but little. If any progress is really desired, means should be used for improving the *physique* as well as the minds of the people, by promoting sanitation, and saving them from the clutches of the mahajun for nine months in the year.

SÁDHARANI,
August 26th, 1877.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 8th September 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

